REPUBLICAN news

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"A CARNIVAL OF REACTION"

"SUCH a scheme (as the proposed partition of Ireland) would mean a carnival of reaction both North and South, would set back the wheels of progress, would destroy the oncoming unity of the Irish labour movement and paralyse all advances whilst it endured."

These prophetic words were written by James Connolly more than seven years before the Brit-system of partition was imposed upon this country.

Following partition the hated RUC was formed in April 1922 as a Brit-backed Orange militia primarily made up of RUC men, Specials and former UVF men. (Their true colours were publicly declared early on when in August 1922 a special RUC Orange Lodge was formed.)

This milita was heavily armed by the British; from their formation to the present-day they were provided with a massive array of rifles, sub-machine guns, machine guns and armoured cars.

For the past fifty-six years the sectarian RUC have played a central role in the "carnival of reaction" predicted by Connolly. They have provided the British and their Orange furcoat bridge with a massive instrument of intimidation to keep the nationalist people down.

In 1969 timid attempts were made by the British to clip their vicious Orange claws as the eyes of the world became focussed on their six-county police-state; but their monster was not to be tamed.

Instead the RUC brutes were penned up inside new 'interrogation' centres. There they could carry on their dirty-work behind closed doors. The screams of the brutalised people were no longer to be televised.

TWO MORE VICTIMS

Yet to this day Connolly's prophesied "carnival of reaction" proceeds at full swing and now we have yet another sinister turn.

Last Friday May 12th (sixty two years to the day from Connolly's execution) two more victims of the sectarian Brit-partition system were buried; both killed by the sectarian thugs of the RUC Special Branch.

Whereas the history of Britain's Orange statelet shows that there is nothing unusual about the murder of nationalists by the RUC there is certainly a new sinister aspect (for recent times) in that both men buried last Friday were killed by the RUC whilst held "in their custody".

These two men were Jake Mc Mahon of Madrid Street, Short Strand, Belfast and Brian Maguire of Ardane Gardens, Lisburn.

IRA volunteer Jake McMahon was last seen alive at Musgrave Street RUC barracks four months ago on January 18. Ten days ago his badly-decomposed body was recovered from the River Lagan at York Dock.

RUC TORTURERS

In all probability this 18-year-old Republican youth was tortured by the RUC trying to gain information before they killed him and threw his body away, like a useless object, into the river.

Jake McMahon recently spent over a year in Crumlin Road gaol interned-on-remand. Upon his release he reported back to his IRA unit for active service.

Whilst he was still in prison the RUC raided his home and arrested his sister. She was brutalised into signing a false statement and ended up in Armagh gaol.

Last November when the RUC swooped in the Short Strand and arrested thirteen young women another sister of Jake McMahon was arrested, she also ended up in Armagh.

Not satisfied with imprisoning three older members of the Mc Mahon family the RUC again raided their home, this time they arrested Jake's 13 year old sister and held her for several hours in Castlereagh.

The Short Strand area has been constantly under siege from the sectarian RUC over the past two years; and altogether over forty young men and women have been tortured into signing statements and are now in gaol.

The people have continuously resisted the presence of the RUC by confronting them physically on the street and driving them out.

On hearing the news of the latest death the area erupted and for almost two days a constant street battle took place between the people and the RUC.

Racing about the area in jeeps the RUC taunted the people: "There'll be more McMahons, before we're finished with you."

The RUC's other victim buried last Friday was twenty-seven-year old Brian Maguire. He was an electronics engineer at the Strathearn Audio factory in West Belfast. As secretary of his factory branch of the Technical and Supervisory section of the engineering union AUEW he was a keen trade union militant and an activist within the Trade Union Campaign against Repression (TUCAR).

LIES UNCONVINCING

Last Wednesday May 10th he was found dead in his cell in Castlereagh 'interrogation' centre.

All pointers indicate that the RUC Special Branch had, this time, gone so far with the 'mock' strangling of one of their victims that they killed him.

Brian's background and personality, his short time inside, and the weak RUC stories of sheets and grills as the mode of suicide, point to murder rather than to him having been driven to 'suicide' by their interrogation methods.

As might be expected the RUC have created a tissue of lies to cover up their foul deed. **BUT FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND WORK-MATES OF THE DEAD MAN FIND THESE LIES ABSOLUTELY UNCONVINCING.**

Last November Brian Maguire had helped organise a militant march out of the West Belfast Kennedy Way Industrial Estate. That march was held to oppose torture by the RUC and British Army. Tragically the repression Brian Maguire helped organise against, claimed him as a victim.

At last November's protest one of the speakers warned that unless Castlereagh was closed then there would be somebody tortured to death. Brian Maguire, who was on that was that somebody.

RESPONSE TREMENDOUS

The response of the people to both murders has been tremendous, with numerous protests and marches to Belfast, Derry, Lurgan and elsewhere. On the streets the revolutionary temper of the people has made itself felt with widespread outbursts of rioting, hijacking and burning.

The message is clear. The people will not accept the torture and murder of the RUC, nor will they believe their lies.

In fact for the last ten years we have had a new sound alongside that of the "carnival of reaction". We have had the glorious sounds of the risen people marching and shouting, stoning and burning, bombing and shooting their way to freedom.

Since the eruptions of 1968 and 1969 the people have got off their knees and life has never been the same again for the sectarian monsters of the RUC.

PARTITION BURSTING

Partition is bursting at the seams. Yet to drive forward we still need more than the successful guerilla warfare of the Irish Republican Army, the heroic resistance of the men on the blanket and the excellent protests mounted by Sinn Fein and the RAC.

1978 is the year for the masses of the people to be back on the streets. Not only in the Six Counties but throughout the country we must mobilise against the British and their collaborators.

RESISTANCE: OUR STANCE

SEE PAGES FOUR AND FIVE

MILITANT PROTESTS AT CASTLEREAGH MURDER

DERRY

ON FRIDAY, Derry turned out en masse, with workers from the Government Training Centre, the Pennyburn shoe factory, Lec Refrigeration, Rocola Factory, the City Factory, the Essex, the docks and even Derry Guildhall abandoning their work to march against the murder of Brian Maguire by the RUC in Castlereagh. Not since the days of the burning of Long Kesh was such a crowd on the streets, in thousands, marching with black flags, black armbands, and crosses. At the head of the procession a black coffin was carried in grim reminder of the funeral of this 27 year old victim of RUC murder. After marching from the Bogside to the notorious Strand Road RUC Barracks, protestors massed outside this torture centre to send up towering clouds of black smoke as the coffin was set ablaze under the noses of RUC torturers.

After a decade of the Rosary, the protestors marched off again down the Strand Road, this time to Guildhall Square, where members of the RAC and workers representing various factories condemned this latest murder at the hands of the RUC.

A member of Sinn Fein reminded the marchers: "Brian Maguire could NEVER have hanged himself in Castlereagh. I had a brother and a niece tortured at Castlereagh, and I can assure you, there are no sheets in Castlereagh. The very ventilation grill is far too high above the cell floor for anyone to reach, even if they had got the means to hang themselves. No, Brian Maguire was murdered, and no amount of whitewash will cover up that dirty fact.

Inquiries are only for a lawful society, and here in Ireland we have not law but dictator's rule, where the RUC and Brits can torture you, murder you, make you disappear and throw your body into the river later and no one will ever point the finger of crime at them." She reminded the protestors that the last English policeman to be sent over to investigate the RUC was named Drury, and "that same Drury who was sent to investigate the murder of Sammy Devenney here in Derry by the RUC now serves a ten year prison sentence for corruption. Police inquiries are simply a matter of criminals investigating other criminals."

A member of the Relatives Action Committee spoke and congratulated the workers for risking their jobs to down tools and join in this protest at the murder of their fellow trade unionist. She told the crowd how she and others went to the Trade Union Conference held in Derry Guildhall earlier in the week, but that despite promises by Paddy Devlin that they would be seen about the appalling situation in the H-Blocks, they were refused admittance:

"Back came a message from Paddy Devlin that he was too busy to see us. My son lies in H-Block, after signing a statement beaten out of him by the same RUC that murdered Brian Maguire, and my son is a paid-up member of his union. Do your unions care? Do we dictate to our unions, or do they dictate to us?

She called for the trade unions to actively oppose the Special Powers Act and to support all protests for political prisoner of war status.

BELFAST

FOLLOWING INITIAL shock at the horrific murder of Brian Maguire by the RUC Special Branch, the Republican Movement and others swung into action to mount militant protests.

Within hours of the news of Brian Maguire's death Sinn Fein organised a march in Belfast.

On Wednesday evening a dignified parade of nearly 3,000 people walked three abreast from the Andersonstown Road and Falls Road to Sinn Fein headquarters. The silent marchers were led by three women carrying black crosses in memory of Brian Maguire and others killed by the hated RUC.

The militant mood of the people was signalled by an outbreak of rioting, hijacking and burning.

The next morning the Trade Union Campaign against Repression, of which Brian Maguire had been an active member, led a protest from Kennedy Way Industrial Estate to the city centre.

The bulk of the work-force of Starthearn Audio, where Brian Maguire worked, had walked out on the Wednesday afternoon and now next morning they joined in the protest.

The work-force of two other Kennedy Way factories, Antrim Crystal and DC Products joined the march as did a deputation from Keane Foods.

The sombre but militant marchers proceeded down the Andersonstown Road shouting "SS-RUC : SS-RUC"; comparing the crimes of the RUC with those of the Nazi SS.

An impressive display of opposition to the RUC came from the black taxis. Nearly one hundred taxis joined in the protest forming a huge cavalcade driving three abreast right across the road behind the hundreds of marchers. At the Andersonstown barracks they blew their horns in unison.

Building workers downed tools and joined in the march from the Glen Road site, the Andersonstown Leisure Centre and other sites down the Falls Road. Scores of workers walked out of Hughes Bakery to swell the marcher's ranks.

Women and children came from the side streets to the march as it proceeded down the Falls Road towards the city centre.

Here the sectarian RUC, backed up by the Britiah army, blocked the now several - thousand-strong march from entering the city centre. They even refused to allow a delegation of shop stewards to proceed along the pavement to their Trade Union headquarters at Transport House.

A meeting was held at the junction of Hamill Street and Divis Street where the protesters were addressed by shop stewards from Strathearn Audio.

Joe Edwards of TUCAR warned: "This march is Brian Maguire's requiem. Brian Maguire did not commit suicide, but was murdered by the police. Each and every one of us is a potential Brian Maguire."

Meanwhile building workers had also downed tools in the Ardoyne and Oldpark area as did more than a dozen of the workers from Milltown Cemetary. Workers from Carrington Printers, Waterford Street, also walked out, and joined the protest.

After the marches had dispersed peacefully following some sharply-phrased abuse at the RUC, sporadic rioting and hijacking broke aout in the Lower Falls; and squads of Brits in full riot gear were moved into the Leeson Street area.

As protests, (some spontaneous, others organised by Sinn Fein and RAC) continued over the following days, road-blocking and rioting was carried out in the Short Strand and Ardoyne dsitricts. Hoax bombs were also placed all over Belfast at key points, snarling up rush hour traffic on Friday evening.

Last Monday morning (15th) Ardoyne building workers and members of the RAC carried out a successful street-blocking potest, closing the Crumlin Road with scores of people plus a digger placed across the road.

As we go to press further reports of street-blocking and rioting in West Belfast, Ardoyne, New Lodge and Short Strand are coming in. The RUC murderers and the Brits are obviously in for a long hot summer.

Hanging at the hands of the RUC

Most people will remember the case of the Enniskillen schoolteacher Bernard O'Connor who was tortured in Castlereagh in January of last year. (His case was highlighted by the BBC 'Tonight' programme.).

But one part of O'Connor's account of the treatment he received at the hands of the RUC is worthy of particular attention at this time. His statement reads:

"I was pushed into a corner and the track suit top which I was wearing was taken off me and put down over my head, with the arms tied around my neck.

"My nose was closed off with their fingers and my mouth was sealed off with another hand. I couldn't breathe.

"During this time I heard the older man say 'Choke the bastard'. I found even my very stomach trying to come up my throat until finally I could remember no more for a short stage.

"I felt I must have fainted for maybe just a minute or maybe 5 or 10 minutes."

Mock execution by shooting or hanging is common enough treatment for those undergoing 'interrogation' at Castlereagh. But such treatement is not reserved purely for those incarcerated in Castlereagh. Massive evidence is available documenting cases in Strand Road, Derry and Gough Barracks, Armagh. And in Belfast there is also the Springhill Road barracks where 'hanging' is part of 'interrogation' procedures.

A case being taken to Europe is that of Peter Hands, tortured 7th June 1976.

Part of his statement reads:

"I was handcuffed. Two woollen type hoods were put over my head. I was then taken out and put into a car which drove around what I think was the yard of Springfield Road Police Sation. I was then taken out and walked about, still hooded.

"They said then they wouldn't shoot me because they had no silencer but would knife me instead, but after this they brought me back into the station with the hood still on.

"They put a rope around my head, made me stand on a chair, then they kicked it away.

"I was left hanging from the roof. I felt myself going faint. I fell down. They said later the rope had broken. They then started to started to slap me around as I was collapsing. Then they

(Continued on page 6)

"A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE"

1969

MURDER by the RUC is certainly nothing new.

Nine years ago, on 19th April 1969 the RUC brutally murdered a Derry man, Samuel Devenney.

A civil rights march planned to take place that day in Derry was banned as usual by the Stormont regime. During the late afternoon there was serious rioting when Loyalists (Paisley supporters) arrived in the city to ensure that the ban was enforced.

They started stoning the Civil Rights supporters; the hated RUC intervened to help the Paisleyites by baton-charging the Civil Rights supporters and driving them into the Bogside.

At 9 o'clock Samuel Devenney, a man of forty-two with a weak heart and a record of TB, was sitting at home with his wife and five children, aged between five and eighteen.

Nearby, some Bogside teenagers were stoning a group of RUC men. Six RUC Land-Rovers came speeding around the corner and the youths dashed into the nearest open doorway which chanced to be the Devanney's in William Street. The youths got away by rushing straight through the house.

The RUC thugs then burst into the house and fell upon the Devenney family with batons and boots.

Later, Catherine Devenney, aged sixteen, described in court the horrifying scene in their tiny front room:

"She said her sister Anne was screaming that the witness (i.e. Catherine) was a girl, and lay across her, and asked the police not to touch her as she was only out of hospital; and the policeman said, "I don't give a fuck where she's out of". Witness sat on the floor with her knees up to protect her stomach because she had had an operation. Her brother was crying."

SAVAGELY BEATEN

Samuel Devenney was savagely batoned by the RUC. He was taken to hospital with a badly-cut scalp and died in hospital in Belfast three months later on 17 July 1969.

Faced with the growing civil rights struggle through the summer of '69 the open and violent sectarianism of the RUC began to run counter to British needs. So in order to try to more directly control the situation, in October, they brought in a new Chief Constable from London: Sir Arthur Young.

"My task", he immediately announced, "is to talk the police back into the Falls". According to the 'Sunday Times' Insight Team, he was "a humane and intelligent policeman of considerable colonial experience". (The Brits have never for one moment regarded the six counties as anything other than a colony).

At the inquest on Samuel Devenney in December 1969 a verdict of death "due to natural causes" was given.

So great was nationalist outrage than on 1 April 1970 the RUC's new head, Young, announced that Scotland Yard would mount an inquiry into allegations of RUC brutality against Samuel Devenney.

RUC THUGS

But the RUC thugs, who had rampaged through the Devenney house that fated April night, refused to attend identification parades. And on 4 November 1970, Young made a public statement on the Scotland Yard inquiry. No RUC men were to be charged for murdering Samuel Devenney.

He attributed lack of evidence to a "conspiracy of silence" amongst members of the RUC.

To this day the ranks of the RUC contain the murders of Samuel Devenney.

So mcuh for English police enquiries into the murderous activities of the RUC!

In 1969 it was a "conspiracy of silence". In 1978 it will be the same old story.

SINN FEIN STATEMENT

In the words of last week's Belfast Sinn Fein Statement:-

"Sinn Fein view with extreme sceptism the despatching of Chief Superintendent Peter Rowlands from the Merseyside Police to investigate the killing of Brian Maguire.

"Police investigations have been discredited in the past and are treated with contempt by all responsible people.

"His arrival will not answer the disquiet felt by all members of the community. Chief Constable Sir Arthur Young investigated the death of Samuel Devenney and he met "A Wall of Silence" from the RUC and there is no guarantee that this investigation will be any different.

"Ireland has seen many attempts at whitewashing by the British Administration, the most notorious being the Widgery Inquiry into the murder of 14 civilians in Derry, January 1972, by the paratroopers."

The results of such "investigations" are a foregone conclusion: No RUC will be charged with Brian Maguire's murder; no RUC will be brought to trial; and most certainly no RUC will ever be found guilty of his murder or spend a day in prison for this foul crime.

NEVER CRIMINAL

For the simple fact is that murder of nationalists, in the interests of "security" is not and never has been considered criminal in the perverted legal system prevailing here. Murder and torture of the Irish population by Crown forces is simply the traditional and necessary means by which Britain and her native collaborators maintain control.

The brutal road from RUC custody to H-Block Long Kesh must be permanently and forever demolished. We call for the obvious: the immediate closure of Castlereagh and the disbandment of the notorious RUC. But we know full well that the British regime here, ruling by absolute force and tyranny, can afford to do neither. Until British rule is ended here once and for all time, Castlereagh and murder by the RUC under torture will be an unfortunate fact of life for our people.

The RUC in action in 1969

A MESSAGE FROM THE H-BLOCKS:

RESISTANCE IS

WE the Republican prisoners of war "on the blanket protest" in H-Blocks five and three, Long Kesh, would like to take this opportunity to thank you our friends, relatives and supporters for the tremendous encouragement and support that you have given to us during the past twenty months of the blanket protest and in particular during the last several weeks.

It has been through your hard work and sheer persistence that the horrors of the 'H' blocks of Long Kesh have finally been revealed, and laid before the eyes of the world. Once again exposing the British government in their torture of Irish men and women. "The British government have failed miserably in their attempt to de-politicise the revolutionary struggle through the attempted "criminalisation" policy of Republican P.O.W.'s We have refused to be branded as criminals or to conform to criminal status in any form or manner and we shall continue to do so.

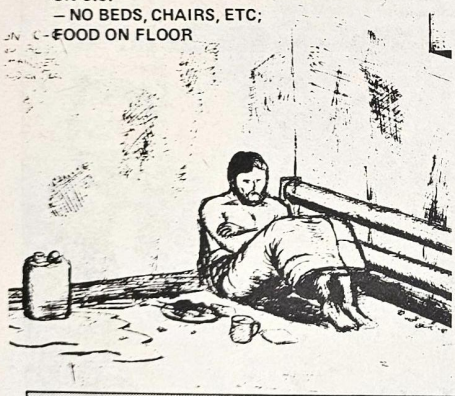
Resistance has been our stance and this has been met by a constant and daily torture of the most brutal nature. We have been degraded, humiliated and physically attacked on a massive and well organised scale by the Prison Regime; no doubt under the direction of the well protected Northern Ireland Office.

For almost twenty months Republican P.O.W's have lay naked, except for a blanket in total solitary confienement during which time we have not received any exercise or fresh air, which has led to the gradual deterioration of our health.

Each lonely day has been a living nightmare, having nothing to occupy us but our own thougts. We have survived in a small eight foot square cell, sleeping, washing and eating within these concrete tombs.

As you know, several weeks ago we embarked upon a further form of protest to highlight the barbaric and dehumanising conditions in which we have been forced to exist. You also know, and only too well, the sufferings and hardships which have been endured within the 'H' blocks of Long Kesh as they have been as much your sufferings as they have been ours. Inevitably our attempt to highlight our plight was met by further attacks from the prison regime again in the form of massive harassment, physical beatings and every other sort of dirty deed to demoralise us and break our spirit.

ON C.C.
– NO BEDS, CHAIRS, ETC;
– FOOD ON FLOOR



FURNITURE REMOVED

At present they have gone as far as to strip our cells of all furniture, leaving us with only a filthy foam mattress and a few dirty blankets which we must sleep upon on a filthy damp floor.

We have not been washed or showered in over two months, during which time our cells have remained uncleaned with a pile of petrifying rubbish and waste food lying in the corners of each cell.Our cells reek of the smell of urine and excrement, the screws having kicked chamber pots full of filth about our cells. They have even thrown buckets of the same filth over several men. This coupled with the fact that the screws also refused to empty our chamber pots, left us with no alternative, other than to empty pots of human waste out of our cell windows.

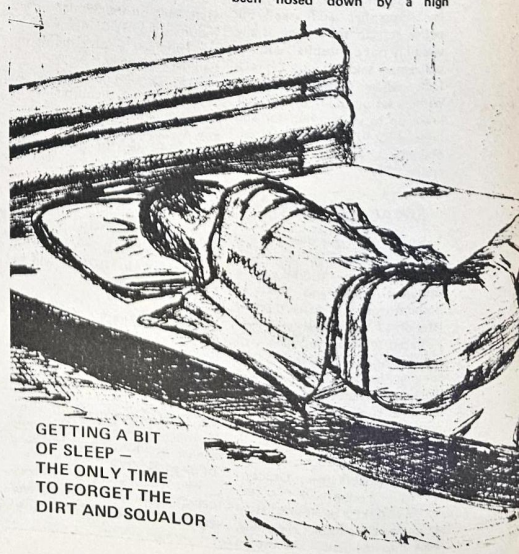
PICTURES FROM H-BLOCKS

The three pictures on this page were drawn and smuggled out to us by one of the blanket men in the H-blocks.

THE CELL

HEALTH RISK

The danger of a health risk is now quite apparent and certainly inevitable due to the state of our unwashed and smelling bodies, the filthy uncleaned cells and the human waste which is gathering outside our cells make each H-block a potential time-bomb of disease. Dozens of men have been sent to the punishment blocks where they have been subjected to starvation diets. We have also been hosed down by a high



GETTING A BIT OF SLEEP – THE ONLY TIME TO FORGET THE DIRT AND SQUALOR

LONG KESH JUSTICE

by P.R.O., H-4 Block, Remand P.o.Ws.

ON MONDAY 8th May a Derry Man, Seamus Meenan, awaiting trial here in H4 was brought before the board of visitors because he had accused a screw of assaulting him. This was the second time he was assaulted and this latest incident happened over a month ago.

Unlike the previous occasions the screw who assaulted him did not leave any marks:- he hit him a few punches in the stomach.

This constitutes assault and the incident was witnessed by a comrade of Seamus' who has since the incident been sentenced and is now on the blanket. The board of visitors went through the process of a mock trial and as we have come to expect from all forms of Long Kesh Authority, not only did they find the screw not guilty but Seamus was charged with bringing false accusations against prison staff!

He was immediately hauled off to spend 7 days on the boards in the punishment block.

One would consider that bad enough on it's own but, wait for the ending. In Mason's model prison, when Seamus got to the boards he got properly assaulted again and is now locked up and deprived of visits and contact with other prisoners for the next 7 days. By that time the marks from this latest assault will probably have healed.

I could go on and accuse the board of visitors, prison staff, even the Northern Ireland Office (N.I.O.) for their parts in this affair. But what's the use. This is Life in Long Kesh. British justice personified.

How did Seamus come to get assaulted in the first place, you may ask? That's simple, a bad humoured screw told him to put his hands by his side and when he didn't obey quick enough he got the stomach treatment.

I hope Bishop Daly, from whose diocese Seamus comes, reads this.

How can he call on the I.R.A. to give up the fight and try to gain "concessions from the Brits.

Does he not know the only answer to our problem? As Seamus Meenan lies on the boards tonight recovering from his latest hammering, he knows what the answer is. So does the majority of the Irish people. Get the Brits, their justice and influence out of our country.

OUR STANCE

The prison authorities have attempted to force us into wearing the prison garb by refusing to grant us medical and dental treatment unless we wear a prison uniform. This means that if we refuse to wear a prison uniform we must suffer and go without medical attention.

It would be impossible to list or mention even a tenth of the hardships and torture that we have been subjected to in the past and, up to date, but it is the present that now matters. We have reached a critical point where the lives of each Republican P.O.W. on the blanket protest is very much in danger should a massive and serious disease break out on a totally uncontrollable scale. This reality is understood and is crystal clear to Roy Mason and his henchmen. It is evident that once again he is gambling with the lives of Irishmen due to another piece of bungling British policy.

But this time the British government may well have erected the proverbial Rock they may perish on. With this thought we call on you our friends, relatives and fellow countrymen to increase your resistance. Your incessant hard work and effort to help bring the horrors of the 'H' blocks to an end by the re-introduction of political status, and ending with a massive push to drive the British foreign forces of Imperialism from our country once and for all.

Once again we attempt to offer our inexpressable gratitude to you all and we look forward to the ever-growing reality and promise of peace with justice within an Irish Socialist Republic.

– P.R.O. Republican P.O.W's,
'H' Blocks 5 & 3, Long Kesh.

pressure hose which saturates us and everything in our cells including our bedding. On several occasions our cells have been sprayed with an extremely strong detergent or amonia which gives off fumes that are almost overwhelming leaving us choking and vomiting.

Already we have had small epidemics of minor rashes, tapeworms and one unidentifiable illness which brought down fifteen men for a week, during which time they suffered considerable pain.

Armagh report

WE ARE locked up twenty-four hours each day. During this lock-up time we are not allowed out twice to the toilet. During the time when we are unlocked we are given call inspection. The three girls who actually give cell inspection are subsequently put on report every two weeks for calling out the orders and carrying out cell inspection. Their punishment consists of loss of remission.

Owing to our refusal to work each girl is put on report. Consequently each girl is brought to the doctor whereby he determines whether we are fit and well. To determine this the doctor asks us how we are. We are then weighed. This is all our medical examination consists of – if one could call it that.

After seeing the doctor each girl is brought back to her cell to await the Governor. When he eventually arrives each girl is brought out one-at-a-time to see him. (No girl takes part in these proceedings; he is completely ignored).

The Governor finds us guilty of the charge (i.e. refusing to work).. The punishment is fourteen days loss of remission, lock-up, visits, parcels, association, tuck shop etc.

SEGREGATION

Four of our comrades have been totally isolated from December. (The whole goal was shifted to different wings at this time). These girls were told they would be moved over with the rest of us three weeks after we moved to this wing.

It has been almost 5 months since they were told this, and presumably they will not be moved over at all. As regards cleaning, we clean whatever we use after us, the ordinary prisoners do the rest.

LETTERS

We are still allowed to receive and send out as many letters as we wish. The problem about letters is, the ones we receive are usually censored to such a degree that they are virtually unintelligible. On numerous occasions our letters never reach their destination.

VISITS

We have one visit per month for 30 minutes this has to be taken in an open room, this is the remand box, the ordinary prisoners have their visits here also along with ourselves and our remands. There is always over-crowding, we are refused permission in the small more private visiting boxes, where our girls with status get theirs.

The majority of girls with status take their weekly visits on a Saturday which means the boxes are usually empty on Monday or Wednesday, when the visiting boxes we are

PARCELS

We are allowed no food parcels, but we are allowed clothes parcels. Quite often clothes parcels go on the infamous missing list. When we enquire about them we would be told no parcel was left in even if the items are marked in the parcel This sort of thing concerning parcels also effects our girls on the remand wing with their food and clothes parcels.

At the moment the morale of the girls is very high. We believe the fight for Political Status will be won in the not too distant future. All literature people could send in would be fully appreciated.

– PRO
Republican Protesters
Armagh Gaol

THE FOLLOWING WOMEN REPUBLICAN P.o.W.s ARE ON THE PROTEST IN ARMAGH GAOL

BELFAST

NAME	SENTENCE	DISTRICT
Rosemary Callaghan	5 yrs.	Short Strand
Peggy Friel	6 yrs.	New Lodge Rd.
Brege McCaughley	10 yrs.	Andy/Town
Una Nellis	5 yrs.	Newington
Patricia McGarry	10 yrs.	Ardoyne
Shirly Devlin	4 yrs.	Newington
Brenda Murphy	4 yrs.	Ballymurphy
Mariead Farrell	14 yrs.	Andy/Town
Sinead Moore	10 yrs.	Andy/Town
Mariea McClenaghan	4 yrs.	Ardoyne
Anne Marie Quinn	12 yrs.	Ballymurphy
Elis O'Connor	5 yrs.	Bone
Sile Darragh	5 yrs.	Short Strand

DERRY

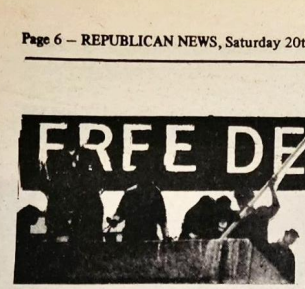
NAME	SENTENCE	DISTRICT
Lorraine Halpenny	Life	Bogside
Pauline McLaughlin	16 yrs. & S.O.S.	Shantallow
Bernie Boyle	15 yrs.	Shantallow
Marie Doherty	4 yrs.	Bogside

SOUTH DERRY

NAME	SENTENCE	DISTRICT
Dolores O'Neill	Life Plus 20 yrs.	Ballymaguigan
Anne Bateson	Life Plus 20 yrs.	Ballymaguigan
Monica Craig	7 yrs.	Dungiven

THE FOUR GIRLS IN A' ARE:-

NAME	SENTENCE	DISTRICT
Rita Bateson	3 yrs.	Bone
Rosin Black	3 yrs.	Andy/Town
Maureen Gibson	3 yrs.	Falls Rd.
Rosin Rouse	18 months.	Craigavon



Mason's war against children

LAST WEEK we carried the horrific story of young Gary Page, of Bluebellhill Gardens, Brnadywell, arrested and during interrogation beaten to the point of massive internal bleeding from the stomach area requiring his immediate emergency hospitalisation. The result of this was a forced "confession" – which had been shown to him on his arrival at Strand Road RUC Barracks, already typed and awaiting his signature – in which he admitted involvement in shooting a Brit in 1972 – when aged 13 years old.

At his hospital bed after being charged with murder, he was barely able to talk to tell his father what happened, and scarcely knew the extent of his signature. His father had difficulty understanding him in the short time allotted, due to the fact he was constantly vomiting blood into a small basin by his bedside.

The Crown's war against children continues in Derry at full pitch. Recently, the homes of neighbours across the street from each other in Rathkeele Way, Creggan, were raided and three children lifted: 16 year old Patrick Nelis, his 17 year old brother John, and 17 year old Brian Fahy, also 17. Patrick, a student at St. Columb's College, was due to take his "o" level exams in French the next day – an exam he has studied the past 5 years to do.

The Nelis family was subjected to virtual "house arrest" all of Monday, and two Pigs effectively sealed off the top and bottom of Rathkeele Way, stopping everyone going through on foot. The RUC made it clear that Mrs. Nelis, who is very active in the Derry Relatives Action Committee, was under no circumstances to be allowed to see her son at the Strand Road RUC Barracks – even if there were to be visits, only Mr. Nelis would be allowed in.

On Tuesday, Patrick was allowed 24 release to take his exam – highly unlikely that he could have taken this exam at this stage after interrogation Later on Tuesday, both sets of parents were allowed in to see their sons – AFTER both boys had signed statements. Both boys looked in dazed condition but their parents couldn't get speaking to them due to the presence during the brief visit of two RUC. But John Fahy was able to learn one disturbing fact: "Brian wasn't even sure what he had signed for."

Brian Fahy is under a doctor's care for a stomach ulcer, and his parents got their doctor to agree to examine their son in the RUC barracks. But on all three occasions Dr. Cosgrove tried to visit him, the RUC refused him admittance – contrary to law.

Both 17 year olds are charged with membership of the Fianna and "scouting" during the shooting of a Brit in '76 – when they were only 15 years old.

Young Fahy, 4 foot 9 inches tall and only 7 stone 4 lbs. appeared in court handcuffed to a 15 stone Branchman.

The other Nelis boy, Patrick, released for his 'o' level exam, had to be sent away due to the worry that he, too, would be charged. Said his mother: "I know Patrick is in nothing, and I don't think they were going to charge him this time. It was more to upset me that he was lifted, for they probably know the emphasis I put on education, and this was a way of getting at me for speaking out about H-Block. Despite the fact that his mother is not involved in any way with the Republican Movement but simply speaks out against the gross injustice and immorality of H-Block through the Derry Relatives Action Committee, this harassment of her family is the means by which the RUC hope to inimidate her into silence. Rather than frightening people into silence, such actions simply enrage friends and relatives into more determined action against this police state.

Terrorisation of families continues this week: Gary Page's three young cousins, Spencer, aged 19, David, aged 18 and Sean Tracy, just turned 15, of Florence Street in the Waterside, were suddenly scooped in a raid this past Monday. His distraught mother, seeing all her sons lifted in one fell swoop, contacted the Republican Information Centre in the Brandywell. Every effort was made to get a doctor in to see her sons, but the RUC refused to allow any doctor near the boys on Monday.

On Monday night, young 15 year old Sean Tracy was rushed from RUC HQ to Altnagelvin Hospital for an emergency appendisectomy – the result of the vicious kicking he received.

PDF WORKERS THREATENED WITH DEATH

17 YEAR old Barry Fisher of Rathlin Gardens, Creggan, who collects for the PDF, is harassed by Brit patrols at every opportunity.

PDF collections have increased in Creggan recently, and it is clear the Brits feel threatened by the numbers of people who are generously contributing to help the families of those so unjustly imprisoned under the Mason regime. Barry. is followed from house to house on his collection round, and this past week, a Brit patrol confronted him alone one night and told him if he didn't stop collecting for the PDF, they would shoot him.

On another occasion recently the Brits threatened to plant rounds on him and get him sent away to the Crum. . .

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

DANNY DEVENNEY

Happy First Anniversary

On this our anniversary I send you all my love and encouragement so that you will be able to withstand the indignities of imprisonment. This day in particular beings beautiful memories of the past year and strengthens our bond of love. See you soon Danny, love Debora and baby Cara.

Hanging at the hands of the RUC

(Continued from page 2)

took my hood off and left me in a cell alone."

We believe that this type of mock execution is what happened to Brian Maguire. But that instead of the rope breaking, the RUC men (probably drunk) made a 'mistake', their makeshift rope was too strong and they actually executed their victim.

This murder would have taken place in an 'interrogation room which provides much more opportunity for hanging than a cell where it would be next to impossible.

Brian Maguire was being 'interrogated' for the same shooting as was Felim Hamill a twenty-year-old Queens University student from Summerhill Park, Twinbrook. Thus Brian Maguire would have fallen into the same hands as did Felim Hamill days earlier.

The treatment that Felim Hamill received gives us a glimpse of what Brian Maguire would have had to recount if he had lived to tell the tale.

It should be noted that Felim Hamill's statement was taken before Brian Maguire was killed. His statement reads in part:

"During the first day I was beaten about the face and head particularly during the third interview when I was punched on the back of my head. My head was banged off the wall on numerous occasions.

"Two detectives shouted at 'If you don't make a statement we will send in the hoods.'

"Five other detectives arrived A detective grabbed me by the left leg, another by the left arm, and another by the right arm.

"Whilst I was held in this position, I was grabbed by the privates and by the throat and was raised off the ground and thrown over the table a few times.

"I was stretched across the table and a detective would press down on my shoulders whilst another would press down on my arms. My arms and legs were pinned down and a light-coloured towel was put over my head obstructing my vision.

"They tied the towel around my neck and choked me. Whilst the towel was tied around my face a cup of water was poured down my throat and nose giving me a drowning feeling.

This statement gives us more than a clue about what happened not only to Brian Maguire but also possibly about the murder of IRA volunteer Jake McMahon. Although found dead in the Lagan the RUC could have drowned him before dumping him in the river.

BRITS ON THE RAMPAGE IN BRANDYWELL

Last Saturday night, three Land Rovers full of drunken Cheshire Brits sealed off part of the Brandywell in a hoax "bomb scare". Some old age pensioners were roused out of their beds while others in the same supposedly "dangerous" area of Glendara Park were not disturbed.

An eyewitness from this area was awakened at 2 a.m. by the noise and going to his window he saw a man in a blue anorack being spread-eagled against the wall by a baton-wielding Brit. The eye-witness was getting dressed to go to the aid of the man when the man in the blue anorak ran away, laughing, pulling off his anorak, as he got into the Land Rover.

For the people prevented from going into their homes that night by this Brit-engineered "bomb scare" it was no joke. When a woman tried to see why her mother, an old-age pensioner wasn't allowed to go up to her home the Brit laughed drunkenly and said, "there's a bomb, love."

But another neighbour was able to go to her own house next door without any interference.

The entire exercise was simply a drunken escapade by the Cheshire Regiment, intended to harass the people of the Brandywell.

IN MEMORIAM

Reid (7th Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of our dear son Vol. Billy Reid C coy 3rd Battalion IRA. Killed on active service May 15th 1971. RIP Mary Wueen of Ireland pray for him. In a lonely grave at Milltown he sleeps his last long sleep, and in our homes through Belfast his memory we shall keep, and teach our yough his love of truth his scorn of wrong and fear and teach them to love our land as did our brave Volunteer. Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus we pray to Thee today to aid our suffering Motherland upon her bloodstained way. For loyalty, to serve her, for strength to set her free, Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus we put our trust in Thee. Always remembered by his mother and father Hugh and Bridget Reid, also brothers and sister and families.

Kilpatrick (5th Anniversary).

The officers Board and members of O'Neill, Kilpatrick and Coney Sinn Fein Cumann, together proudly remember Volunteer Kevin Kilpatrick, East Tyrone Brigade, I.R.A., murdered by enemy forces 13th May, 1973.

"Five years have passed
since his proud young
heart was taken from
our land, searching
for his freedom cut
down by a British Hand"

Mary Queen of the Gaol pray for him.

Magee (6th Anniversary).

Fian Michael Francis Magee 2nd Battalion Fianna Eireann shot dead' New Barnsley Crescent 13th May 1972, Aged 15 years.

May the God of Love and Mercy, Care our loved one who is gone, and bless with consolation, those left to carry on.

Always remembered mother father and family.

O'Donnell, Thomas

Indil Cuimne Tomas, Bail de foireann ceannceatrun, Oglaigh-na-hEireann.

A thug a rabh aige ar son na hEireann.

Seid se inar geuimhne go deo.

A Paras farewell in Anderstown

The trademark of the Paratroop Regiment is firing upon civilians and this is what happened last Saturday night when the Donegal Celtic Social Club was raided. The club is situated on the fringe of Andersonstown in west Belfast. The Paras flooded the premiese and it was obvious to those present from their agressive approach that this was not just a routine patrol of harrassment; it was clear that this was more than the usual raid.

Contrary to reports in the mass media the trouble was begun by the Brits. There was an attempt to arrest one man and because of the belligerent methods used, this was resisted by his brother. The Paras erupted went out of control and refused to obey their Major, who fired a shot into the air in an attempt to restore order. At this all hell broke loose and the Paras reacted in their traditional manner by firing live rounds and plastic bullets, not just into the ceiling but into the crowded hall as the bullet holes in the walls go to prove.

The most belligerent of the Brits was a female W.R.A.C. She became well known in Republican ghettoes for her domineering approach. She has been looking for trouble for some time and it would appear that on Saturday night she got it. The Paras behaved with the gallantry for which this 'crack' regiment is renowned and when the outraged women in the club attacked the 'lizzie' they ran and left her to get a good beating.

The Paras then called in reinforcements before re-entering the club. Contrary to British army statements the twenty-one people then arrested were not outsiders but in the main members of the club enjoying a Saturday night out. The Paras dragged these people outside and forced them to lie spreadeagled in the muck and dirt, Also contrary to British army statements the club committee members did not five any first-aid to the Brits.

This coat-trailing exercise by the Paratroop Regiment was bravely countered and answered by the people of Belfast last Saturday night. The people now have a taste for freedom and no Brit or lackey will stop the Risen People.

Bullet holes in Donegal Celtic Social Club.

Everyday harassment of Turf Lodge youth

The Marine Commandos have a consistent record of harassment and brutality against the people of Turf Lodge. Frequently young people are pulled into darkened alleyways or onto pieces of waste ground and threatened or beaten.

Below we print a statement from a 23-year-old married man, Martin Harper of Norglen Parade, Turf Lodge. This statement describes a typical piece of everyday treatment handed out to the young men of the area by the uninformed thugs of the Marine Commandos.

"At around 6 p.m. on Thursday 11th May 1978 I had just left my flat to go and see some friends; I was stopped by the Royal Marine Commandos and questioned about my identity and other particulars. I was told to remove my coat and as it was raining quite heavily I strongly objected. This one particular soldier insisted saying, "Take your F- - - - - - coat off".

I was left standing in the rain for about 20 mins. wearing only a short sleeved shirt.

The whole time I was there I was subjected to the most foul-mouthed abuse. I was made to stand with my arms stretched out and after some time when they felt like lead, I attempted to put them down but was told quite forcibly to keep them up. I was made to spread my legs apart and one soldier ran his hands up the inside of my legs and started squeezing my testicles until I thought I was going to pass out. It was extremely painful.

They threatened to take me to Castlereagh and passed some remark about, 'the hanging' which I couldn't quite make out. They said if it had been dark, they would have kicked my c - - - in. I had an H-Block leaflet in my pocket and they took it out and read it, then spat into it and stuffed it back into my pocket. They also spat all over my coat. They removed a small cark from my top pocket and stuffed it into my mouth while I was standing with my arms outstretched.

I am a citizen of the Free State and when they heard my accent, they started to laugh and make fun of me. One of them remarked "I hate you Irish". I was asked did I like the army and when I replied "no" they weren't too pleased. The whole experience was terrible, degrading and humiliating."

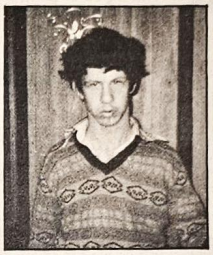
–Martin Harper.

Deepest Sympathy

Middlesex Polytechnic Students Union believes Brian Maguire was horribly murdered. Deepest sympathy to his family and friends and also to the people of occupied Ireland.

– From Middlesex Polytechnic Students Union.

HANDICAPPED BOY BEATEN AND THREATENED BY RUC



Patrick McGahey

In Belfast on the evening of Wednesday, May 10th at 7.30 p.m. a handicapped boy Patrick McGahey of Selby Walk, Grosvenor Road was forced into a car by a group of sectarian RUC thugs. This happened in Roden Street and the boy was taken to Mulhouse Street barracks.

There he was beaten on the arms, legs and back. The RUC then put a gun to his head and threatened to shoot him or to give him thirty-years in prison.

A young girl, Eilish Adams, saw Patrick being arrested and immediately informed his mother. She went straight round to Millhouse Street barracks and produced evidence that Patrick was ill. She was taken to a small box room where Patrick had been put. He was in a severe state of shock and had various bruises on his body.

This boy has been under medical attention since he was a baby. On his 10th birthday he went through a major heart operation and is still attending a cardiac surgeon in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The depths of depravity to which the hated RUC will stoop seem to know no limit.

Yet boot-licker Gerry Fitt, and that wonderful pair, Betty and Mairead, want us to accept these people as a "legitimate police force". Some hope!

The RUC will never be accepted as other than the sectarian murder gang they are.

MEETING IN MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER Revolutionary Communist Group Public Meeting 'Defend Irish Prisoners of War! – Hands Off Ireland!' RCG and PAC speakers. Friday 26th May, 7.30 p.m., Basement Theatre, Town Hall Extension, Albert Square, Manchester.

Manchester RCG extends its solidarity to Irish prisoners of war, to their struggle for PoW status, and to all Irish people fighting for the freedom of Ireland.

Independent public inquiry into abuse and torture of prisoners in Ireland

A THREE day public Inquiry into Repression in Ireland will take place in Liberty Hall, Dublin, on Friday May 19, Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21.

An international panel will hear evidence of repression throughout Ireland from advocates and witnesses. The format will be as follows:

May 19: 10.00 – 20.00 hrs., emergency legislation. 20.30 – 2.30 hrs., community harassment.

May 20: 10.00 – 12.30 hrs., interrogation centres. 14.00 – 16.30 hrs., prison conditions. 17.00 – 18.00 hrs., non-jury courts.

May 21: 14.30 . . . Panel report followed by Conference on Repression in Ireland.

The convener is **Rev, Piaras O Duill:** the secretary, **Paul Hurley;** the treasurer, **Philip Flynn;** their address, 30 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. (tel. 323100).

Sinn Fein Cumann reformed in South London

The Paddy Permidy Cumann has been reformed in South London. Any new members wishing to join this Cumann should write to Box 8, 182 Upper St., London N.1.

Support from England

Our Falls Road Republican Press Centre has received the following telegram of support from the annual conference of 'Big Flame', a revolutionary left group in Britain.

"We condemn arrests and attempted suppression of Republican News. Full support for political status campaign. We condemn British media silence. Solidarity from Big Flame Conference."

RUC harass Republican mourners

The funeral took place last Friday of a young Belfast IRA volunteer Jake McMahon. Predictably the RUC and British army attempted to intimidate the mourners by saturating the Short Strand area and trying to stop people from going to the funeral. The RUC also attempted to prevent the funeral from leaving the Short Strand until the national flag was removed from the coffin.

Not satisfied with just harassing the mourners inside Short Strand the RUC then set up a road check on the Albert Bridge to prevent them from following the family and the hearse. However, the mourners made their way to Milltown Cemetry to pay their last respects to a young I.R.A. volunteer who died mercilessly at the hands of sectarian RUC thugs. Not content with just killing him the RUC even harassed the mourners

Guard of Honour on the Falls Road, Belfast, at Vol. McMahon's funeral.

Sympathy

BELFAST BRIGADE

OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS
BELFAST BRIGADE (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th BATTALIONS)
OGLAIGH NA hEIREANN

CUMMAN MA mBAN
NA FIANNA EIREANN
CUMANN NA gCAILINI
AUXILIARY UNITS, OGLAIGH NA hEIREANN
REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

deeply regret the death of

VOL. JOHN McMAHON

4th BATT., BELFAST BRIGADE
I.R.A.

and tender deepest sympathy to his Mother, Father and Family Circle,

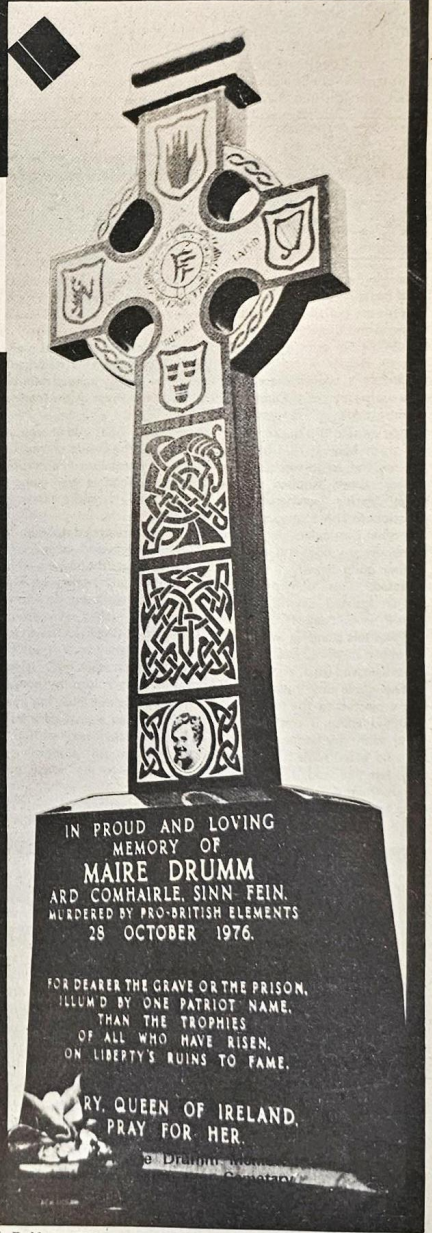
DILÍS GO BÁS

MAIRE DRUMM MEMORIAL

Last Sunday more than 1,000 people turned out in torrential rain to a parade and ceremony in Milltown cemetry, Belfast. They were attending the unveiling of a memorial to the late Maire Drumm, vice-president of Sinn Fein, who was murdered on 28th October 1976.

Addressing the crowd Tony Ruane, Ard Comhairle member, traced the history of the struggle for National Liberation and the tremendous role women had played in it. He said "The struggle to fuse this country from foreign domination has seen many great and fearless women.

"Marie Drumm was one of the greatest. Her determination and single-mindedness is well known to you all. She will be particularly remembered by the people of Belfast who fought alongside her over the last 10 years."



APPRECIATION

At a function organised on Sunday evening by the Maire Drumm Memorial Committee two statements of appreciation from Republican prisoners were read out. We print them both below.

Tribute from an English jail

What can one say of a person such as herself? But this memorial will be a perpetual reminder to all who look on it of a woman who possessed magnificent fortitude and strength whose personality radiated enthusiasm and determination in the face of every obstacle and danger. But more than that I believe she was in a way a mother to all who strove and are striving for the attainment of a way of life which upholds man's dignity. She was a mother by example who proclaimed the highest Christian ideals of family life and like all mothers was so protective in times of great danger to those about her. She knew and shared in the suffering of so many mothers whose families have been torn apart. God grant her now the rewards of the Resurection and the joys which will belong to all who so faithfully live out the christian faith.

Sleep in peace brave comrade.
Remembered always by the Irish Prisoners in English hails.
– Signed: Rev. Fr. Padraig Fell,
Republican prisoner of war.
Albany, Isle of Wight. May 1978.

Tribute from Armagh jail

We, the officers and volunteers of 'A' company, Armagh jail, wish to pay tribute to Maire Drumm. We will always remember with pride this brave woman, who struggled so hard towards the goal of a united Ireland.

On a few occasions Maire was incarcerated in here, Armagh jail because of her political ideals. Many of us are very proud to say that we knew this courageous woman. She struggled hard for the P.o.W.s. benefit and was held close to their hearts. The PoW's themselves always have and always will refer to Maire as the 'Mother of Prisoners'. Her courage and determination was a fine example of every true Irishman and woman. When Maire was so brutally murdered it was a tragic blow for Ireland. She died as she had lived 'a true-soldier of Ireland'. Her memory will never fade and her name will be handed down from generation to generation.

"She did not forsake us, her dear sons and daughters
The hundreds who lie behind prison walls
They fought for their freedom, Maire fought to release them
We know that for us she has sacrificed all"

– Maire Drumm, we, 'A' Company Armagh jail, salute you.

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